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LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April Unemployment Rates Fall in All Michigan Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in April declined in all of the state's 17 major labor market areas, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels increased in nearly all regions over the month, while workforce totals decreased moderately in most areas.

"Seasonal movement dominated Michigan's regional labor markets in April," said Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "With the coming of spring 2017, highly seasonal industries recorded robust hiring."

Between March and April, unemployment rates dropped seasonally in all 17 major regions, with reductions ranging from -0.6 to -2.6 percentage points. The median over-the-month rate decline was a full percentage point. The largest jobless rate decreases in April were posted in the state's three northernmost labor market regions, as rates fell in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (-2.6), the Northwest Lower Michigan region (-1.8), and the Upper Peninsula (-1.5). Three Michigan regions in April displayed jobless rates below 3.0 percent; the Ann Arbor (2.2%), Grand Rapids-Wyoming (2.4%), and Lansing-East Lansing (2.9%) Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), with all three presenting rates well below Michigan's non-seasonally adjusted April rate of 3.7 percent.

Unemployment Rates Down Over Year

Since April 2016, jobless rates fell in all 17 regions, with rate drops ranging from -0.3 of a percentage point in the Monroe MSA to -1.4 percentage points registered in both the Northeast and Northwest Lower Michigan regions. The median over-the-year decrease for all areas was -0.9 of a percentage point.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

From March to April, total employment rose in 15 regions and was flat in the Bay City MSA and the Upper Peninsula. Regional increases ranged from 0.2 to 1.5 percent with a median hike of 0.6 percent. The largest over-the-month gains were posted in the Northeast Lower Michigan region (+1.5%), the Northwest Lower Michigan region (+1.4%), and the Jackson MSA (+1.1%).

Since April 2016 total employment advanced in 14 areas, with a median gain of 1.1 percent. The largest over-the-year increases were recorded in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (+3.0%), Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+2.4%), and the Kalamazoo-Portage (+2.1%) MSAs. Employment was essentially unchanged since April 2016 in the Midland and Monroe MSAs, while employment declined in the Bay City MSA (-0.6%).

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Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Year

During April, workforce levels declined seasonally in 15 areas, with decreases ranging from -0.2 to -1.6 percent, for a median drop of a half percent. The workforce in the Jackson MSA inched upward over the month by 0.1 percent, while the labor force in the Midland MSA was essentially unchanged.

Since April 2016, labor force levels declined in ten regions and increased in seven. Over-the-year workforce reductions were mostly minor with a -0.4 percent median decrease. The largest workforce drops were registered in the Bay City MSA (-1.7%), the Upper Peninsula (-1.1%), and the Midland MSA (-1.0%). Labor force additions since April 2016 were led by the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (+2.4%), Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+1.5%), and Kalamazoo-Portage (+1.2%) MSAs.

Gains in Seasonal Industries Push April Payroll Jobs Higher

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 38,000 or 0.9 percent in April to 4,366,000. Seasonal industry sectors dominated the April gain, with significant job additions in leisure and hospitality services (+13,000), construction (+10,000), and professional and business services (+9,000). The state's remaining major sectors recorded mostly moderate upward or downward movement.

In April, payroll jobs rose in 13 of the state's 14 major metropolitan areas. Regional job gains ranged from 0.2 percent to 1.4 percent with a median advance of 0.7 percent. The largest over-the-month job gains on a percentage basis were posted in the Jackson (+1.4%), Detroit-Warren-Dearborn (+1.2%), and Midland (+1.1%) MSAs. Payroll jobs fell over the month in the Bay City MSA (-0.8%).

Since April 2016, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 61,000 or 1.4 percent. All major industry sectors in Michigan reported over-the-year job gains with the exception of trade, transportation and utilities (-4,000). Professional and business services (+16,000) and leisure and hospitality services (+12,000) led the state's industry sectors in job growth over the year.

From April 2016 to April 2017, payroll jobs rose in nine of the 14 Michigan metro areas. Regional increases ranged from 0.3 to 2.2 percent, with a median gain of 1.2 percent. The largest percentage over-the-year advances in jobs were recorded in the Grand Rapids-Wyoming (+2.2%), Kalamazoo-Portage (+2.1%), and Detroit-Warren-Livonia (+1.9%) MSAs. Over-the-year job reductions occurred in the Bay City (-2.2%), Monroe (-1.4%), Midland (-0.3%), and Niles-Benton Harbor (-0.3%) MSAs. The overall job level in the Flint MSA was unchanged since April 2016.

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Year

All of Michigan's 83 counties recorded jobless rate reductions in April, with a median decline of -1.2 percentage points. The most pronounced over-the-month drops occurred primarily in the state's northern counties.

Since April 2016, unemployment rates fell in 83 counties, with a significant median decrease of -1.1 percentage points.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may differ from previously released Michigan seasonally adjusted data.*

A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted April workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for April.

Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."

Page 3, April Rates

	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA					
(Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	193,200	194,600	194,300	-0.2%	0.6%
Total Employment	187,300	189,000	190,000	0.5%	1.4%
Unemployment	5,900	5,500	4,300	-21.8%	-27.1%
Rate (percent)	3.0	2.8	2.2		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA					
(Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,200	64,700	64,400	-0.5%	0.3%
Total Employment	61,400	61,800	62,100	0.5%	1.1%
Unemployment	2,900	2,900	2,300	-20.7%	-20.7%
Rate (percent)	4.5	4.4	3.6		

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	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA					
(Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	52,100	51,800	51,200	-1.2%	-1.7%
Total Employment	49,300	49,000	49,000	0.0%	-0.6%
Unemployment	2,800	2,800	2,300	-17.9%	-17.9%
Rate (percent)	5.3	5.5	4.4		

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	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-DEARBORN MSA					
(Data in thousands)					
(Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	2,030	2,090	2,078	-0.6%	2.4%
Total Employment	1,936	1,984	1,995	0.6%	3.0%
Unemployment	94	105	83	-21.0%	-11.7%
Rate (percent)	4.6	5.0	4.0		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA					
(Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,200	182,300	181,500	-0.4%	-0.4%
Total Employment	172,600	172,400	173,800	0.8%	0.7%
Unemployment	9,600	9,900	7,700	-22.2%	-19.8%
Rate (percent)	5.3	5.4	4.3		

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(more)

	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA (Barry, Kent, Montcalm, Ottawa counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	563,800	573,800	572,200	-0.3%	1.5%
Total Employment	545,800	556,000	558,700	0.5%	2.4%
Unemployment	18,000	17,800	13,600	-23.6%	-24.4%
Rate (percent)	3.2	3.1	2.4		

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	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA (Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	74,600	74,200	74,300	0.1%	-0.4%
Total Employment	71,100	71,000	71,800	1.1%	1.0%
Unemployment	3,400	3,200	2,500	-21.9%	-26.5%
Rate (percent)	4.6	4.4	3.4		

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	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA (Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	167,000	170,000	169,000	-0.6%	1.2%
Total Employment	160,400	163,300	163,700	0.2%	2.1%
Unemployment	6,700	6,700	5,300	-20.9%	-20.9%
Rate (percent)	4.0	3.9	3.1		

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	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	248,000	249,900	249,300	-0.2%	0.5%
Total Employment	239,100	240,700	242,200	0.6%	1.3%
Unemployment	8,900	9,200	7,100	-22.8%	-20.2%
Rate (percent)	3.6	3.7	2.9		

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	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MIDLAND MSA (Midland County)					
Civilian Labor Force	41,200	40,800	40,800	0.0%	-1.0%
Total Employment	39,400	39,000	39,400	1.0%	0.0%
Unemployment	1,800	1,900	1,500	-21.1%	-16.7%
Rate (percent)	4.4	4.6	3.6		

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(more)

	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA					
(Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	77,200	77,200	77,000	-0.3%	-0.3%
Total Employment	74,100	73,700	74,100	0.5%	0.0%
Unemployment	3,100	3,500	2,900	-17.1%	-6.5%
Rate (percent)	4.0	4.6	3.7		

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	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON MSA					
(Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	76,800	76,900	76,600	-0.4%	-0.3%
Total Employment	72,900	73,200	73,600	0.5%	1.0%
Unemployment	3,900	3,700	3,000	-18.9%	-23.1%
Rate (percent)	5.1	4.8	3.9		

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	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA					
(Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	73,300	73,400	72,700	-1.0%	-0.8%
Total Employment	70,000	70,000	70,200	0.3%	0.3%
Unemployment	3,300	3,400	2,600	-23.5%	-21.2%
Rate (percent)	4.5	4.6	3.6		

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	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW MSA					
(Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	88,400	88,600	88,300	-0.3%	-0.1%
Total Employment	84,000	83,900	84,700	1.0%	0.8%
Unemployment	4,400	4,600	3,700	-19.6%	-15.9%
Rate (percent)	5.0	5.2	4.1		

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	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA					
(15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	138,800	139,600	137,300	-1.6%	-1.1%
Total Employment	129,000	129,300	129,300	0.0%	0.2%
Unemployment	9,800	10,200	8,000	-21.6%	-18.4%
Rate (percent)	7.1	7.3	5.8		

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(more)

Page 6, April Rates

	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	81,300	82,100	81,000	-1.3%	-0.4%
Total Employment	74,700	74,400	75,500	1.5%	1.1%
Unemployment	6,600	7,700	5,400	-29.9%	-18.2%
Rate (percent)	8.1	9.3	6.7		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	145,300	146,300	145,600	-0.5%	0.2%
Total Employment	136,600	137,000	138,900	1.4%	1.7%
Unemployment	8,700	9,300	6,700	-28.0%	-23.0%
Rate (percent)	6.0	6.4	4.6		

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	<u>Apr-16</u>	<u>Mar-17</u>	<u>Apr-17</u>	% change month	% change year
MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,787	4,868	4,844	-0.5%	1.2%
Total Employment	4,570	4,636	4,664	0.6%	2.1%
Unemployment	217	232	180	-22.4%	-17.1%
Rate (percent)	4.5	4.8	3.7		

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**MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
APRIL 2017**

1	Ottawa County	2.1	43	Charlevoix County	4.6
2	Washtenaw County	2.2	44	Missaukee County	4.6
3	Kent County	2.4	45	St. Clair County	4.6
4	Clinton County	2.6	46	Alpena County	4.6
5	Allegan County	2.7	47	Marquette County	4.7
6	Eaton County	2.8	48	Wayne County	4.8
7	Kalamazoo County	2.8	49	Lapeer County	5.0
8	Ionia County	2.8	50	Tuscola County	5.0
9	Barry County	2.9	51	Sanilac County	5.1
10	Ingham County	2.9	52	Manistee County	5.2
11	Livingston County	2.9	53	Otsego County	5.2
12	Oakland County	3.0	54	Gladwin County	5.3
13	Isabella County	3.1	55	Houghton County	5.3
14	Grand Traverse County	3.3	56	Delta County	5.3
15	Lenawee County	3.3	57	Benzie County	5.7
16	Cass County	3.4	58	Alcona County	5.8
17	Hillsdale County	3.4	59	Clare County	5.8
18	St. Joseph County	3.4	60	Crawford County	5.8
19	Jackson County	3.4	61	Lake County	5.9
20	Branch County	3.5	62	Antrim County	6.0
21	Montcalm County	3.6	63	Iron County	6.1
22	Calhoun County	3.6	64	Oceana County	6.1
23	Midland County	3.6	65	Iosco County	6.2
24	Berrien County	3.6	66	Emmet County	6.4
25	Monroe County	3.7	67	Kalkaska County	6.4
26	Newaygo County	3.8	68	Ogemaw County	6.7
27	Huron County	3.9	69	Gogebic County	6.7
28	Macomb County	3.9	70	Arenac County	6.8
29	Mecosta County	3.9	71	Luce County	6.8
30	Muskegon County	3.9	72	Chippewa County	7.0
31	Leelanau County	4.0	73	Oscoda County	7.1
32	Shiawassee County	4.0	74	Roscommon County	7.5
33	Dickinson County	4.1	75	Baraga County	7.6
34	Saginaw County	4.1	76	Presque Isle County	7.9
35	Van Buren County	4.2	77	Schoolcraft County	7.9
36	Gratiot County	4.2	78	Montmorency County	8.9
37	Wexford County	4.3	79	Alger County	9.1
38	Mason County	4.3	80	Keweenaw County	9.1
39	Genesee County	4.3	81	Ontonagon County	9.2
40	Osceola County	4.4	82	Cheboygan County	10.7
41	Menominee County	4.4	83	Mackinac County	12.5
42	Bay County	4.4			

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